



RESOURCES

News about nature, history and horticulture in Fairfax County

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Carousels Combine History and Pleasure

By Jeanne Niccolls, Park Authority Collections Manager

Remember your first "painted pony" ride? The music of the carousel and the motion of the galloping horses conjure up the very essence of summertime. Adults delight in such memories from their own childhoods and young children thrill to the up-and-down rides on prancing, elegant horses. A long-time fixture at county fairs and traveling amusement shows across America, carousels remain popular today.

The notion of carousels developed out of contests in medieval Europe that replaced tournaments involving actual confrontations between mounted and armored knights. In fact, the term "carrousel" in French means "entertainment by knights involving chariot races, pageants and exercises." As these tournaments increased in grandeur, the trappings for horses became even more elaborate, serving as the inspiration for later carousel wood carvers.

Catching a ring has been part of the carousel tradition since its earliest appearance. In the 17th century, competing riders attempted to catch balls of clay filled with scented oil, suffering the "smell of defeat" if they failed. This inspired the French creation of spearing gold rings with lances, an activity that was stylized and added to mechanical amusement

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What's in a Road Name?

By Jane Scully, ResOURces Editor

It's rush hour. You're stuck in traffic on Little River Turnpike, headed west toward home. Idly, you look around and see Ravensworth Road going off to the left to cross Braddock Road. To your right is Columbia Pike and, with a jog on Annandale Road, is Gallows Road. Sitting in your car, you are in a gridlock of history.

Right now you are on an age-old Indian trail that predates white settlement of the area. Known informally as the Shenandoah Hunting Path, it was a high forest path that followed natural easements down to the Potomac River. The path later became a thoroughfare for travel between the mountains down to the port of what is now Old Town Alexandria. George Washington traveled this road across the Blue Ridge in 1748 in his surveying travels when he was only 16 years old.

By Washington's time the foot and horse track was also carrying heavy wagons hauling grain for export from the large farms to the west. On the rutted path, the

heavy ox-drawn wagons had a difficult time navigating the steep grade crossings of the stream valleys enroute. The trail was no longer adequate for continuing western economic expansion. It was clear that a new road system was critical to future growth.

In 1796 the Little River Turnpike was chartered as the first private toll road in the nation. The road was set in an artificial bed filled with pounded or broken stone ("macadamized," named for John Loudon McAdam who pioneered the technique), much better than the usual muddy roadways. Wooden or stone bridges crossed the many streams along the way.

By 1820 this central connector stretched 34 miles from the Little River in the western farmlands at Aldie between Warrenton and Winchester to

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Summer Spectaculars



Carve Out Your Talents!

At Colvin Run Mill, summer Sundays often mean a time to get out your wood-carving skills and learn from a group of experts. Every first and third Sunday in June, July and August, from noon to 4 pm, the Northern Virginia Wood Carvers lend their tools and expertise to uncover your own talents as you create a creature from a block of wood. This wonderful group has been showing older children and adults how to turn a knife *just this way* to make a proper corner or round that edge of your carved animal. The lesson is free and there is a nominal charge for the blanks. While you're there, tour the mill and see the larger-than-life wooden miller sculpted by the wood carvers. Call 703-759-2771 for more information.

Long Ago at Bailey's Crossroads

The Bailey Family of Bailey's Crossroads, a free exhibit on local social history researched by Guest Curator Naomi Zeavin, will be on view at the Clark House at 6332 Barcroft Drive in Falls Church from May 19 through November 30.

Hachaliah Bailey of Somers, New York, purchased 526 acres of land between the Leesburg and Columbia turnpikes on December 19, 1837. He was the owner of the first traveling menagerie in America and his son Lewis Bailey had earlier toured with his traveling circus in Alexandria in the 1820s. Early local circus advertisements from Lewis Bailey's career, Bailey family history and photographs, maps and images of the family home, "Moray," are among the featured exhibit items. Call 703-750-1598 for directions.

Take A Kid Fishing

What a great treat for both adult and child! On Friday evening, June 28, from 7:30 to 8:30, young anglers, accompanied by adults, can learn some basic techniques about catching fish at Hidden Pond Nature Center's own pond. You provide the fishing rod and staff will provide hooks, bait and bobbers and lots of helpful tips. Reservations and advance payment of \$3 are required. Call Hidden Pond at 703-451-9588 for more information and reservations.

4-H Fair Thee Well

Come August 3 and 4, Frying Pan Park is the home of the spectacular 54th annual Fairfax County 4-H Fair. Events and shows include everything from sheep shows to turtle races, English and Western horse riding to dog obedience classes.

Along with the animals, the Fair displays 4-H exhibits about foods and nutrition, photography, art and natural science. In addition to showcasing 4-H accomplishments, there are rides, demonstrations, an arts and crafts show and live entertainment.

The 4-H Fair is put on by members who are 9 to 19 years old. The Fair exemplifies Frying Pan Park and 4-H's shared history and ongoing connections. Come join in the fun, Saturday and Sunday, August 3 and 4!

Concert in the Garden

Green Spring Gardens Park is the lovely evening setting for musical concerts. The many gardens are transformed in the soft light and gentle breezes encourage the nodding flowers. On Wednesday, July 17, from 7 to 8 pm, the Fairfax Symphony Youth Band will send music wafting our way as we relax and enjoy the night garden. Bring a picnic dinner if you wish. The event is free.



Meadow Wildflower Walk

Late summer is the best time for viewing field wildflowers. On Saturday, August 24, from 9 to 11 am, walk in the meadows and around the pond at Cabell's Mill in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park and observe coneflowers, milkweeds, bush clovers, goldenrods, hawkweeds and other spectacular plants. Sturdy shoes and a field guide are recommended. Free reservations should be made by calling 703-631-0013.



Kayakin' on the River

Sign up for every kind of kayaking trip this summer out of Riverbend Park. There's River Wildlife Kayak Tours, Early Risers Tours, Life on the Potomac Tours all summer long, as well as a Seneca-to-Riverbend Kayak Tour on Saturday, August 10. These are small trips and age and ability limits are also a factor. Call Riverbend at 703-759-9018 for more information on the tours and programs.



RESOURCES

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AmeriCorps Brings Muscle—and More—to the Parks

As stewards of over 21,000 acres of parkland, the Fairfax County Park Authority has plenty to keep up with all year round. Our large volunteer program of over 700 people is a vast asset to parks in helping to protect and interpret the natural and cultural resources found throughout. They lead tours, cultivate park gardens, work with school groups and much more.

Yet there remain important, larger-scale projects that require consecutive large blocks of time—and funding—to complete. These projects include rooting out invasive plants that strangle native species, felling and cutting up dead trees to reduce fuel supply for fires and preservation of historic sites to protect them for visitor education and experience.

Responding to these imposing park needs, the Fairfax County Park Authority sponsored a team of 18-to-24-year-olds from the AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps to work at five of our park sites. Erin Chernisky, Resource Management Division Volunteer coordinator, drew up a

Encouraging children as they participated in springtime games like Foxes and Rabbits was also part of the job.



strong proposal and a detailed eight-week work plan that was accepted and funded by the federal agency. The value to the county of the team's work is \$49,975, a cost that would otherwise be borne by local taxpayers.

At Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, this delightful group of ten young women helped to protect water quality there by improving check dams designed to slow the flow of water as an important erosion control measure. With chainsaws, handsaws and loppers, they have delimbed and taken down dead trees with aplomb. Avril Wood-McGrath, a recent high school graduate and the youngest in the group, is the chainsaw expert.

Denise Patel fully enjoyed her experience with dam building and construction of mulch and gravel bins at Sully Historic Site. A self-described "nerd" about physics and marine science, Denise is passionate about the environment and hopes to work as an advocate for its protection.

At Hidden Oaks, the team removed invasive multiflora rose that is threatening the beautiful and rare native orchid, the pink lady's slipper. They constructed wooden benches at Colvin Run Mill and a cattle catch pen at Frying Pan Park. And at several sites they cleared away over- and undergrowth that could fuel dangerous fires.

Tana Clarke, a graduate of James Madison University, speaks of how they really roll as a team. "We can move through and clear out an area in record time. We really work well together." Tana plans to do graduate work in clinical psychology, as does Kate Conners, a graduate of Penn State. Both young women cite the AmeriCorps work they did earlier this year in Salt Lake City with a domestic violence shelter as providing focus to their future careers.

Team Leader Christy Burke, in her second year with the program, explains that the goal



Clearing out overgrowth on park forest floors can reduce the chances of destruction from devastating fires.

of the 10-month program is to make an impact on the community in some way. This can be through programs in schools or work in shelters or, as with the parks, by assisting people to enjoy the community in ways that couldn't happen without their efforts.

The personal challenge for team members, Christy explains, is to help them sort through "How am I going to get what I want out of this project? What are my goals?" It means taking personal responsibility for how you understand yourself and for creating a satisfying role in whatever project is at hand.

The project at hand at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park one brisk day in late March was managing an egg-rolling/nature tour/story-telling children's event. Between encouraging little Foxes and Rabbits at one game and demonstrating proper egg-rolling techniques, this group enjoyed doing "the fun stuff." But they take well-earned pride in their successful team projects. As Tana and Avril note, the experience is a great confidence builder.

The Park Authority thanks AmeriCorps and all the team members for their stewardship work that will continue to enhance visitors' experiences with history and nature in the county. We couldn't do it without you! ☀️

What They Read 200 Years Ago in Fairfax

By Deane Dierksen, Sully Volunteer Docent

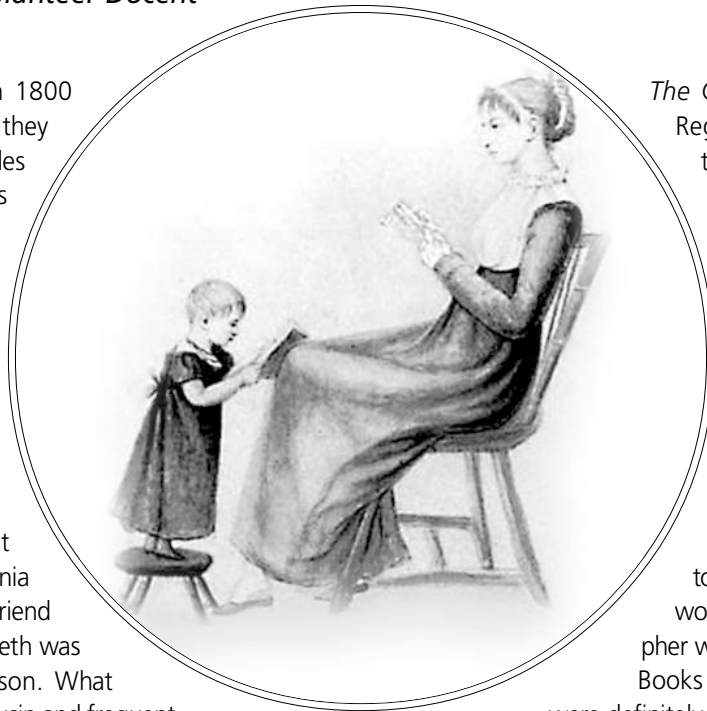
Many ordinary people in 1800 couldn't read at all or, if they could, owned little besides a Bible and perhaps an almanac as reading material. Members of the gentry class, such as Sully owner Richard Bland Lee and his family, were more fortunate and, luckily for us, their choice in reading survived in letters, documents and even copies of books they owned.

Richard Bland Lee served as a state delegate and as the first Congressman from Northern Virginia under the Constitution. He was a friend of James Madison; his wife Elizabeth was a lifelong friend of Dolley Madison. What Richard and Elizabeth and their cousin and frequent correspondent Cornelia Lee read ranged from newspapers to practical and serious non-fiction to drama and poetry to novels.

The major political parties of the day had competing newspapers that, to say the least, were not overly concerned with truth and documentation! Opinions were strongly held and each side believed the other side was leading the country straight to perdition. Richard Bland Lee subscribed to *Gazette of the United States*, the Federalist newspaper.

Novels were widely condemned 200 years ago. Thomas Jefferson considered fiction "a mess of trash" and Noah Webster thought that "at best novels may be considered the toys of youth." A 1797 English article, "Novel Reading as a Cause of Female Depravity," was reprinted several times in the United States. Many people, mostly men, worried that if women read fiction they would be ruined for their more serious duties as republican mothers. Nevertheless, an increasing number of readers, especially women, read novels. Elizabeth and Cornelia Lee were no exception.

Most of the novels they mentioned were of the gothic and romantic genre very popular at the time. Then as now a gothic novel included romance and a heroine in great danger, often in a castle or other exotic locale. Cornelia wrote about Mrs. Ann Radcliffe's *The Romance of the Forest*, and also read *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, which was the most popular of Radcliffe's many works.



The Children of the Abbey, a tale, by Regina Maria Roche, was so popular that 72 editions were published between 1796 and 1912.

Elizabeth acknowledged criticism of fiction in a letter to Cornelia asking for another novel as "a desert at intervals to the sounder food of Anacharsis—and as I never have a stomach for *solids*, in the absense of my deal Old Man—I shall read nothing of Consequence." When Richard was at home, he read aloud to the family and commented on the works of Anacharsis, a Scythian philosopher who was in vogue during this period. Books for children mentioned by the Lees

were definitely of an improving nature. A book for younger children was *Tales of the Castle or Stories of instruction and delight*, by Stephanie Felicite, comtesse de Genlis. She was a disciple of Rousseau, noted one critic, and "set a stern face against make-believe of any sort; all marvels must be explained rationally. Her stories taught children more than they wanted to know, a circumstance that endeared her to a certain type of parent. One of her qualities [was] priggishness...."

Both drama, in the works of William Shakespeare, and poetry were important to Elizabeth and Cornelia Lee. They particularly liked James Montgomery and William Cowper. Cowper is still read but not Montgomery whom one source found to be "... emphatically a good man; greatness, whether intellectual or poetical, cannot be claimed for him." Cowper "wrote of the joys and sorrows of everyday life and was content to describe hedgerows, ditches, rivers, haystacks, and hares." Interestingly, both of these poets were strongly opposed to slavery, yet the Lee ladies seemed undisturbed by their own families' ownership of slaves.

The reading material of the Lee family places them in the literary and social context of their time. The correspondence and journal writing that provide the fascinating inside views of life as it was lived is an unending resource for historians and interested fellow readers alike. The Virginia Room in the Fairfax County Library offers a fine collection of these bygone treasures. ☀

What Makes a Farm Show?

By Todd Brown, Farm Manager, Frying Pan Park

Frying Pan Park will hold its annual Farm Show, the site's biggest event of the year, on July 13 from 10 am to 4 pm. The Farm Show brings together former and present farmers, 4-H members, park volunteers and staff who come to show off their animals, equipment and crops and to share their storehouse of farm knowledge with the thousands of show visitors.

These visitors get a chance to witness and become involved in the many activities that took place on a working farm in the early to mid-1900s and those on a farm today. So much happens every day that showing all of the different jobs, chores and activities that happen throughout a year is a real challenge. For example, showing newborn animals to families takes careful planning, coordination with the farmer(s) and help from the "powers that be."

The Farm Show objective is the same as the everyday goal of Frying Pan Park: we strive to educate and entertain our visitors. We achieve that by offering something for everyone. Grandparents can travel down memory lane when they see four or five farmers in bib-overalls harvesting wheat with a 60-year-old threshing machine. A mother can tell her toddler the similarities of a newborn lamb with those she saw as a child.

Together, a whole family can spend a relaxing 20 minutes together on a hayride through the woods and crop fields around the park. Or they can eat hot dogs while watching the antique tractor pull. Kids can play in the corn box while dad is trying his swing on the farm putt-putt course. Family members can choose the activities that catch their interests throughout our farm show.

To make all of these activities happen requires a tremendous amount of planning and coordinating. That accounts in part for the Farm Show's success over the years. The planning process begins as soon as last year's show is over, with everyone involved reviewing the event just completed and discussing new ideas, changes and improvements. The wheel of planning started rolling. Many voices helped in shaping the show for this year. A birthing plan and a crop plan were even prepared.

Each year we ask, "What pieces of antique farm equipment need to be repaired and restored to use on show day?" "What farmers have a particular breed of cows, pigs, sheep or goats that we want to display?"

"What routine farm chores (such as sheep shearing) can be scheduled for the day of the show?" These questions must be addressed quickly. And of course, any good farmer has to have a back-up plan.

Another huge question is where to find knowledgeable volunteers to help us out. Luckily we have a great group of individuals who supply wonderful items and accurate information for the show. A core of former and current farmers from Fairfax and surrounding counties is always willing to give their support. Members from our Hoofers & Heifers 4-H Club assist with the yearlong plans and on the day of the show help with cow and goat milking, corn shelling and animal grooming demonstrations. All of the event volunteers are well-trained, motivated people who look forward to participating in our annual event.

This year we are planning to focus on the draft horses and the farming practices done with these gentle giants. We also plan to have a "barn raising" demonstration. Free hayrides will take visitors around the park. An antique tractor and lawn tractor pull will take place, along with several antique farm equipment demonstrations done by real farmers. Kids' games and activities are always a big part of our Farm Show.

This event is a summertime bargain, and the cost is only \$10 a car. So pack up the family and spend a summer day down on the farm. You will have fun and maybe learn something along the way. For more information call Frying Pan Park at 703-437-9101. ☀



Frying Pan Park's huge annual Farm Show takes place on July 13.



DOUBLING REWARDS FOR SUMMER READERS

Looking for a way to keep your kids interested in books and involved in reading over the summer break? The Fairfax County Public Library's summer reading incentive program is the answer, and many Fairfax County Park Authority sites help with the fun.

In cooperation with the Fairfax County Public Schools, the Library's program includes a coupon book filled with incentives to reward summer readers and their families. From June 18 to August 31, kids who read the required number of books will win prizes donated by area businesses and county sites. These include merchandise at local stores, meals at restaurants and tickets to George Mason University sporting events. The library teams up with the Park Authority to include coupons for hayrides at Frying Pan Park, mini-golf games and other activities at parks and RECenters.

Last summer over 40,000 kids throughout the county

participated in the reading program and 20,000 of them earned a coupon book. Colvin Run Mill Historic Site has been a partner in this popular program for four years, since its inception. We offer a free child's tour of Colvin Run Mill and the miller's house and typically redeem more than 150 coupons from avid young readers. Last summer 164 coupons were turned in at the site—representing a whopping 2,460 books read by our young patrons!

The program has proved to be a truly a winning combination for lots of people across the county. Local libraries are busy checking out books to kids; in thousands of homes kids are reading; and at the parks we are welcoming interested children and their families who carry away enjoyable, hands-on experiences.

For more details, go to the Library's web site in June at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. ☀

Get Your Fresh Produce Here!



It's that wonderful time of the year when fresh produce, starting with spring greens, spinach, strawberries and asparagus, bedeck the stalls and stands at your local Fairfax County HomeGrown Farmers' Market. Soon the abundance of summer farms is spread out before you, with tomatoes sitting fatly beside gleaming eggplants, peppers of every variety on show, and the sumptuous fruits of summer—melons, blackberries, cherries, peaches and plums—everywhere you turn. Ah, the delights of summer!

There are nine sites where the county's HomeGrown Farmers' Markets are held weekly, mornings from Tuesday through Saturday (see box for your local market's schedule). They are supervised by the Fairfax County Park Authority, but the daily operations are the responsibility of the volunteer Market Masters. They want to bring you the very best in local produce, as well as tasty baked goods, cut flowers, potted plants, cider and honey, jams and preserves.

It's a hometown pleasure to get to know your vendors and their farms. They can tell you which pepper is strong enough—but not too strong—for a particular dish. How and which one of a dozen varieties of heirloom tomatoes will subtly change a favorite recipe.

An added attraction is the free Master Gardener Plant Clinics, a feature at most of the markets. Customers can get answers to their horticultural questions and bring in diseased plant samples for a diagnosis or insect samples for pest identification. This is a terrific service for Fairfax County residents.

Visiting the Farmers' Markets is a wonderful way to get out of the grocery store and return to a way of life so familiar to our parents and grandparents. Maybe you can recreate Grandma's fresh blueberry pie using the real thing. For more information on location and directions to each farmers' market, check our site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm or call 703-642-5173. Here's to good eating! ☀

Come to your local Home-Grown Farmers' Market!

TUESDAYS

Mt. Vernon

May 7 – November 26, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Sherwood Regional Library
2501 Sherwood Hall Lane

Fairfax

May 7 – 29, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Van Dyck Park on Old Lee Highway

WEDNESDAYS

Vienna

May 8 – October 30, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm
Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Road
(between Nutley and Sutton Roads)

Frying Pan

May 8 – October 30, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm
Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon

THURSDAYS

Herndon

May 9 – October 31, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Spring Street next to Town Hall and Red Caboose

Annandale

May 2 – November 7, 8:00 am – 12:30 pm
Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike

FRIDAYS

McLean

May 10 – November 15, 8:30 am – 12:30 pm
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road

SATURDAYS

Burke

May 4 – October 26, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
VRE Parking Lot at 5671 Roberts Parkway

Reston

May 18 – November 2, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm
Lake Anne Plaza off North Shore Drive

Milling Around on Summer Afternoons

By Ann Korzeniewski, Colvin Run Mill Historic Site

Don't let your kids just mill around aimlessly this summer! Bring them to Colvin Run Mill to mill around, relax under the shade trees and experience some local history. Our series of four hour-long weekday afternoon programs are journeys to the past that encourage children to use their imaginations instead of electricity to make some old-fashioned summer fun.

On Mondays preschoolers enjoy being *Little Ears at the Mill*. They visit the barn for stories, songs and activities from long, long ago. Then they learn about grinding grain when they take a tour of the mill. The theme changes each week, and "Children and Chores," "The Farm," "Picnicking," and "Toys" are some of the themes for this summer.

On Wednesdays, kids 6 to 10 years old go on a *History Hunt*. They search the site,

following clues to local history, on a scavenger hunt that takes them through the buildings and around the grounds. After the hunt they gather together to make a take-home map displaying their discoveries.

The *Puppet Show* for preschoolers is presented on Thursdays. Children take a guided tour of the mill where they meet puppets Marvin the Miller, Alvin the teen-aged "Dusty," Fred the Farmer and his wife Matilda who explain how the mill works and how grain is ground. Afterwards kids can feed the hungry ducks on the millpond.

On two special Thursdays, visitors are invited to stay after the puppet show, spread their blankets on the lawn and enjoy a free outdoor program of storytelling and other surprises from 2 to 3 pm.

Fridays wrap up the week with *Ice Cream Making* for kids of all ages.

Children hand-crank and eat delicious homemade ice cream, explore the Hands-On History Trunk, play old-fashioned games, and even try their hands at traditional children's chores at the mill.

The Milling Around series runs from Monday, July 8, through Friday, August 23. All programs begin at 1 pm and cost \$3 per child—accompanying adults are free. In keeping with a laid-back summer attitude, reservations are not required unless you plan to bring 10 kids or more. For directions to the park or more information, call the office at 703-759-2771. ☀



SULLY ANTIQUE CAR SHOW IN JUNE

Sully Historic Site has the pleasure of hosting its 29th Antique Car Show on Sunday, June 16, from 10 am to 4 pm, and you are invited. Celebrate Father's Day at this annual event co-sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Model A Ford Club of America. It's a wonderful opportunity

to see the evolution of transportation in Fairfax County.

More than 400 antique and classic cars will fill the grounds for this largest car show in northern Virginia. There's the excitement of competition as the trophies are awarded in all classes. The show attracts a diverse audience and brings recognition to cultural and natural resources that might otherwise be unknown to a large segment of the community.

Lucky buyers can purchase the car of their dreams at the Car

Corral and shop for the perfect auto accessory. Arts, crafts and antiques are on display in the Flea Market, which boasts more than 100 vendors. And for the perfect memento of the day, the Car Club will be selling the 2002 limited edition collectable car show pins for \$5 each.

While you're there, treat Dad to a delicious lunch or snack from one of several food vendors on the grounds. Get your toes tapping to the music of Jumpin' Jupiter, the popular 50's rock 'n' roll band, and the Fairfax Symphony Dixieland Band.

The members of the Car Club spend thousands of hours each year preparing for the Antique Car Show and have forged a unique partnership with the Park Authority. Through this high-quality car show, the group raises funds for the club and produces revenue for the Park Authority. This cooperative effort earned the Car Club the prestigious Elly Doyle Park Service Award for 2001 in recognition of its outstanding contributions to the Park Authority.

Tickets to the show are \$7 for adults, \$6 for seniors and \$5 for children. Guided tours of the first floor of the 1794 house are included in the price of admission. Come and spend the day!

For more information call 703-437-1794. ☀

If You Go Down in

Mosquito Menaces



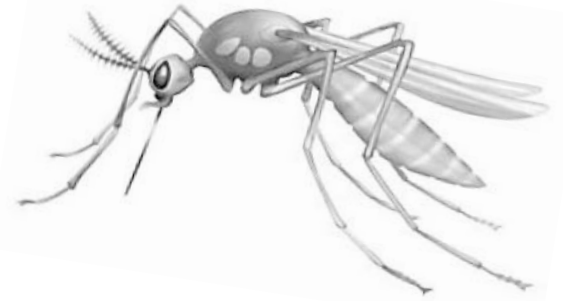
Mosquitoes are more than buzzing, pesky summer insects that can eat up a pleasant evening outdoors or make gardening into a challenge of wills. They can affect the health of humans because of their ability to transmit diseases as they feed on animal and human blood. Recently health officials have become concerned that some mosquito species may carry a disease known as West Nile virus, which can cause flu-like symptoms and, in rare instances, death.

The fact is that the risk of becoming ill from West Nile virus is still extremely low. Before 1999 the virus had never been identified in the Western Hemisphere. In 2000 there were 20 cases of West Nile virus and two deaths; in 2001 there were 56 cases and five deaths. Diseases like influenza, which cause 20,000 deaths per year, make West Nile numbers look miniscule. However, this year the first positive-testing bird was found in April, as opposed to July in 2001 and September in 2000, making mosquito control increasingly important.

Mosquitoes need only a few tablespoons of standing water to breed. Running streams and creeks or ponds with predators such as fish, tadpoles, or dragonflies are *not* good mosquito habitat; on the contrary, in such functioning aquatic habitats, the mosquito plays an important role as a food source.

The Fairfax County Health Department has developed a program of putting biological control agents in the many catch basins throughout the county to control mosquitoes in their larval state. It has also enlisted all citizens in an effort to protect themselves against mosquitoes and thereby the possibility of getting West Nile virus.


Most mosquitoes are actually poor fliers. So if you are being bitten, they are probably breeding around your home. And that's an environment you can control. To eliminate mosquito breeding, eliminate areas with standing water where



mosquitoes lay their eggs and where their larvae grow and live. Empty water from toys, wheelbarrows, wagons, unused hot tubs, rain barrels, flat roofs, plastic drain pipes and in-ground pipes. Clean and change water in bird baths every five to seven days.

Cover canoes and other boats with a tight-fitting tarp or turn them upside down. Change water in wading pools regularly or turn them upside down. Clean out leaves and debris that may be blocking water in roof gutters. Store old tires where they can't collect rainwater. Remove sagging areas in tarps on woodpiles or garden equipment. Store, remove or turn upside down trash cans and lids, buckets, bottles, flowerpots and pet water bowls.

To avoid being bitten by the adult mosquitoes, make sure all window and door screens are free of cracks and holes that mosquitoes could use as an entry. Use yellow "bug lights" for outdoor lighting. Wear long sleeves and long pants outside or working in the garden. Use insect repellent on clothing or on skin that is not covered. Products that contain DEET are effective, but be certain to follow the labeled instructions closely.

For more information on protecting yourself from mosquitoes and on the issue of West Nile virus, check the Fairfax County Health Department's web site at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/service/hd. 

Monitoring for Dead Birds

Culex pipiens, the common house mosquito in our area, is one of the species that has transmitted the West Nile virus to humans by picking up the virus from infected birds that are carriers. Crows and blue jays are particularly vulnerable to the West Nile virus, and often die after becoming infected. When a mosquito bites an infected bird, it may carry the disease as it preys on humans. The Fairfax County Health Department continues to monitor dead crows, jays and hawks that appear to have died in the past 24 hours of natural causes. If you find one, please call the Health Department's hotline at 703-246-2300.

the Woods Today...

Avoiding Ticks

The threat posed by ticks and the diseases they may carry might be enough to persuade some folks that the forest trails and meadows of parks are places to be avoided. But with a few simple precautions, the risk can be eliminated, or at least greatly reduced.

For starters, keep the risk in perspective. Fairfax County averages about 12 cases of Lyme Disease and about 3 cases of Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever a year. With a little care, you can still enjoy the many enchanting places of summer in the woods.

So if you DO go down in the woods...



The best way to avoid ticks is to:

Walk to the center of mowed trails. Ticks do not jump or fly onto their hosts. They wait on low vegetation and attach themselves when you brush against tall grass or underbrush.



Wear light-colored clothing so that ticks are easy to see and remove before they can bite you.



Tuck shirts into trousers and trouser legs into socks. Wear long-sleeved shirts buttoned or snug at the wrist.



Apply an insect repellent that's specifically formulated to protect against ticks. Products containing 30 percent DEET or 0.5 percent permethrin are almost 100 percent effective in repelling ticks. (Permethrin products work on clothing, not skin.) DEET should not be used on very young children, and on older children and adults, it is safer to apply it to clothing rather than directly to skin.



Do a tick check every four to six hours when there's a risk of contact.

Ticks must be attached at least four hours—24 hours in the case of Lyme Disease—for the disease-causing organisms to be transferred. So removing ticks as fast as they're found will significantly reduce the risk of contagion.

The best way is to grasp the tick with tweezers as close to the skin as possible and gently, but firmly, pull it straight out. If tweezers aren't handy, protect your fingers with gloves, tissue or a paper towel.

After you've removed the tick, wash your hands with soap and water and apply an antiseptic, such as alcohol or iodine, to the bite.

If you are infected, remember that both diseases respond readily to treatment, particularly in the early stages. For Lyme Disease, be on the alert for flu-like symptoms or a slowly expanding red rash around the bite. For Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, watch for a sudden fever, a severe headache and muscle aches, followed in two or three days by a red spotted rash which begins on the arms and legs (including the palms and soles) and spreads to the rest of the body. Be sure and let your doctor know you have been bitten by a tick. ☀

► Roads *continued from page 1*

Duke Street in Alexandria. Ever canny and forward thinking, turnpike commissioners and big landowners like Richard Bland Lee of Sully and Thomas Moss of Green Spring made sure that the new road was located adjacent to their lands for ease of trade.

This turnpike was quite successful. It had houses every five miles where a gate prevented further travel until the tollhouse keeper collected the fee. Tolls were “for each head of sheep, five cents, each head of hogs, five cents, every horse or mule and driver, three cents, and every stage or wagon and two horses, ten cents.” For the year of 1816, the tolls amounted to almost \$25,000, quite a sum for its shareholders.

Off to your right as you wait for the next stoplight is Columbia Pike (“Columbia

Turnpike Road”) that continued from Little River Turnpike through Bailey’s Crossroads to Alexandria’s rival, Georgetown. It crossed the river via Chain Bridge, originally built of wood but wiped out several times. The first chain suspension bridge was built there by the turn of the nineteenth century.

Maybe you should try to take that left on Ravensworth Road, an old rolling road used for rolling tobacco barrels down to the port at Alexandria, to Braddock Road. Braddock Road was built in 1752 for the use of troops during the French and Indian War. While the road was named for the British general Edward Braddock who led the troops, he actually never used it and took a different route to Ohio (still part of the Virginia claim), where he and most of his men were ambushed by the French and killed.

So maybe that’s not too cheering. How about going north on Gallows Road? This road between the present towns of Vienna and Fairfax opened as early as 1742 when Fairfax Court House was established on Freedom Hill, to serve as an access to that earliest local seat of justice from the Ox Road. This is signified in its grisly traditional name, “the Gallows Road,” where condemned criminals were taken to meet their fate near the place where the old courthouse had stood.

Out of the gridlock now, getting home is maybe ten minutes away. It’s a far cry from what the Indian hunter, the loaded ox carts or the wagons on the turnpike had ahead of them. Yet as we follow the same paths, we too pursue our livelihoods on roads whose locations were long ago decided by ridges in mountain gaps and fords in streams. ☀



A WINDOW ON WILDLIFE

By Mona Enquist-Johnston, Manager, Volunteer and Interpretative Services

“There’s no place like home!” served as Dorothy’s mantra in the *Wizard of Oz*. I heartily agree. For me, home is not only a comfortable place where I’m surrounded by family and friends. It is also an appealing place to observe wildlife. As the drama of each season unfolds, I watch from my exclusive seat—a chair by the large sliding glass door in the kitchen.

Our backyard is the stage; animals of varying color, shape and size are actors; and my husband Gary and I the appreciative audience. We are also the stagehands. During the 15 years we’ve lived in our house, we’ve added backdrops to the stage—native wildflowers, berry-bearing shrubs and flowering vines. Feeders, nest boxes and a birdbath complete the picture.

To track the drama in our yard, we keep a journal of what we see. Here is just a small sampling of the scenes we’ve witnessed.

HUMMINGBIRD ACTION — July 18

An immature ruby-throated hummingbird, with its speckled throat and hesitant, unsure flight pattern, came to the yard. This tiny, feathered gem visited the butterfly bush’s purple, tubular flowers and the bright red hibiscus flowers. Obviously still hungry, the hummingbird flew up to the gutters where it ate an insect.

Onto the scene came an adult hummingbird. It feasted first at the feeder and then had a taste of wildness at the bee balm, butterfly weed and salvia. At this point I entered from backstage and began working in the yard. The immature bird returned with hasty visits to the marigolds and zinnias. As the hummingbird neared, I froze in place. Attracted by my bright orange shoelaces, it landed right on my shoe. Wow!

BALD-FACED AND BOLD — August 21

My husband and I watched in amazement as a bald-faced hornet attacked a black swallowtail butterfly. The hornet pulled it to the ground, eating the head, thorax and part of the abdomen. We couldn’t tell, but it didn’t appear to sting the butterfly.

Drawn outdoors in fascination, Gary and I looked closely in the yard for other insect activity. We found a praying mantis well camouflaged in the lemon balm. Peeking into the herbs, we discovered black swallowtail larvae chomping on the dill. It was a day when everything was eating!

They say that the world is a stage. I can vouch that the Johnston backyard certainly serves as a stage for intriguing wildlife observations. But the time, money and effort it took to plant and nurture growth that is attractive to wildlife has enriched our yard and our lives. Noting our wildlife observation in a journal has been fun. We watch the drama of the seasons and recall those scenes throughout the year. So remember—there’s no place like home to enjoy nature. ☀

HISTORIC RESOURCES

► Carousels *continued from page 1*



devices that became popular in the late 18th and 19th centuries. These devices consisted of a rotating platform turned by a servant or by horses.

In the 1860s Frederick Savage adapted the steam engine to the machinery that rotated the platform and developed a system of overhead gears that gave the animals their characteristic up-and-down motion. Thus the modern merry-go-round was born.

Immigrant woodcarvers populated carousels with colorful and fantastic horses, animals and other figures. These beautiful creatures thrilled generations of children. But by the Great Depression, hand carving had become too expensive. Manufacturers began to make molded figures out of cast aluminum and decades later, of fiberglass.

Carousels played other interesting roles as well. At the turn of the century, owners of new electric trolleys and railroads encouraged Americans to ride their lines by ending them near parks and amusement centers, which often featured a carousel. Great Falls Park, located at the end of the line for the Great Falls & Old Dominion Railroad, was one such example. Tourists took the electric trolley from Georgetown out to the park where one of the featured attractions was a wooden carousel.

Interest in early carousels was revived in the 1970s. Today, in addition to carousels operated by commercial amusement parks, many older carousels have been lovingly preserved, restored and cared for in American museums and municipal parks.

The Fairfax County Park Authority is extremely fortunate to own five carousels, four of which are in operation. The oldest one, a 1922 Herschell-Spillman carousel with 16 all-wood horses and two chariots, has been carefully stored and awaits funding for its restoration.

The carousel in operation at **Lake Accotink Park** was made between 1937 and 1945 by the Allan-Herschell Company. Originally it held three rows of ten horses each. The half carved-wood, half cast-aluminum horses were made earlier, between 1926 and 1931 and some have been replaced with other elements.

Lee District Park also has an Allan-Herschell Company structure, made between 1945 and 1955. Its 20 cast-aluminum horses are arranged in two rows. Although the same company made the carousel structure and operating mechanism at Lake Fairfax Park, its 20 horses made by Thiel Manufacturing Company of Leavenworth, Kansas. All of them are cast aluminum and are arranged in two rows.

The King Carousel Company of Mount Plymouth, Michigan, made the carousel at **Burke Lake Park** between 1965 and 1970. Its two rows of 20 horses made entirely of molded fiberglass represent a more recent innovation in carousel-horse manufacture.

The Park Authority carousels operate daily all through the summer (see hours in box). Bring your family, come for a spin this summer and take a ride! Let the magic horses weave together a delightful summer day with the centuries-old heritage of the carousel. ☀

CAROUSELS SCHEDULES

The carousels in the parks are already open and will be throughout the summer. The hours for carousel rides are:

Lake Accotink Park Historic carousel:

weekdays from noon to 6 or 7 pm, weekends from 11 am to 7 pm. After Labor Day, weekends from noon to 5 pm.

Lake Fairfax: daily from 11 am to 7 pm. Fall weekends from noon to 4 pm.

Burke Lake: daily from 11 am to 6 pm. Open fall weekends.

Lee District Park: Saturdays from 10 am to 5 pm. Sundays and holidays from noon to 6 pm.

RABIES AWARENESS

It's that time of year again when warmer weather brings out new flowers and wild life. All animals look cute and cuddly but please remember that they can be dangerous. In 2001, 46 animals tested positive for the rabies virus in Fairfax County. These included raccoons, foxes, skunks, bats and even a cat. So far in 2002, 16 animals have tested positive, including a dog.

What to do? The most important action is prevention. The best way to prevent rabies exposure is to keep your pets vaccinated and keep your distance from wild animals.

It is very important that you maintain current vaccinations against rabies for your pets (dogs, cats, and ferrets). The Health

By Linda Smith, Fairfax County Health Department, Rabies Control Program

Department often receives reports of pets being in a fight with a rabid raccoon, skunk, or other wildlife. If unvaccinated, those pets are at risk of infection.

You should never feed wildlife, including stray cats, or make pets of them. Keep trash in cans with locking lids. Do not leave food and water dishes outside: available food increases the likelihood that an animal will become less fearful of humans and dependent upon them for food. That increases your risk of being bitten.

Rabies in humans can be transmitted through a bite, scratch or saliva on an open existing wound or mucus membrane (i.e., eyes, mouth). If you are bitten, wash the area in warm soapy water for 10 minutes and contact your physician or local emergency room for treatment. All animal bites should be reported to Animal Control or the Health Department for recommendations.

If bitten by a dog, cat or ferret, obtain the owner's information so the animal can be quarantined. Wild animals can appear healthy but may indeed be carrying the rabies virus.

Remember, no matter how cute a wild animal is, there is always a chance of being bitten. So *admire wildlife from a distance!*

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YOUR PARKS

Here are some of the parks where summer is spectacular!

Burke Lake Park
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
Call 703-323-6600

Colvin Run Mill
10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
Call 703-631-0013

Frying Pan Park
2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
Call 703-437-9101

Green Spring Gardens Park
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173

Hidden Oaks Nature Center
7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065

Hidden Pond Nature Center
8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield
Call 703-451-9588

Huntley Meadows Park
3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525

Lake Accotink Park
7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield
Call 703-569-3464

Lake Fairfax Park
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Call 703-471-5414

Riverbend Park
8700 Potomac Hills Street
Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018

Sully Historic Site
Sully Road, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794

Need directions? More information?
Visit us online at: www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks

Summer Highlights

Touring the Presidents' Gardens

On Tuesday, July 9, join an all-day journey back into the times and worlds of presidents Jefferson and Madison. Tour the gardens and homes of these two great statesmen and landowners who greatly enjoyed the science of botany and plant breeding themselves. At Jefferson's Monticello, shop the historic plant area and have lunch at Michie Tavern. Then head over to James Madison's lovely home and gardens at Montpelier. The tour runs from 7 am to 6 pm, and the \$100 fee includes lunch, bus, admission and driver's tip. For more information and for reservations, call Green Spring Gardens Park at 703-642-5173.

Dinosaurs of the Culpeper Basin

On Wednesday evening, July 10, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm come and explore the rich local fossil evidence of dinosaurs in Northern Virginia's Culpeper Basin. Visit sites in Centreville and Chantilly where archosaurs roamed the land 200 million years ago. Learn about dinosaur movement, feeding habits, young and the plants of their world! For more information and free reservations, call Ellanor C. Lawrence Park at 703-631-0013.

As ResOURCES celebrates its second full year of publication, we invite your comments on what we have offered to date and whether the publication is useful to you. Let us know if you enjoy the publication and what suggestions you may have for the future. Please fill out our feedback form at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/Resources/feedback.htm.

As always, we are delighted to be discovering and telling you about the many special events, people and places of your parks.



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